Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (BJELKE-PETERSON, JOH) EGEN, AS, JA SUBJECT: QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: CANBERRA 1542

1. ACCORDING TO MOFA OCEANIA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR TANAKA, QUEENSLAND PM JOHANNES BJELKE-PETERSON'S MARCH 8-11 VISIT TO TOKYO WAS CONDUCTED IN A "VERY FRIENDLY" ATMOSPHERE. B-P CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA, AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTER NAKAGAWA, AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ABE (PM FUKUDA WAS UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE OF A COLD). TANAKA CHARACTERIZED THESE MEETINGS AS GENERAL AND NON-SUBSTANTIVE. B-P REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO EXPAND TRADE AND TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND QUEENSLAND. CHUCKLING, TANAKA NOTED B-P ALSO STATED HE WANTED TO EN-COURAGE JAPANESE IMMIGRATION TO QUEENSLAND, "INCLUDING COAL MINERS." WITH NAKAGAWA, B-P DID RAISE THE ISSUE OF IMPORTING LIVE CALVES, AND NAKAGAWA POINTED OUT THERE WERE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF JAPANESE QUARANTINE LAWS, BUT SAID HE WOULD STUDY THE PROBLEM. TANAKA ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTED THAT IWASAKI INDUSTRIES IS THE KEY BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR B-P. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN BUILDING A RESORT AREA IN QUEENSLAND, AND ARE PROMOTING THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE CALVES

2. WHILE IN TOKYO, B-P HAD PRIVATE BUSINESS TALKS WITH NIPPON STEEL, KAWASAKI STEEL, MITSUI AND MITSUBISHI.

STEEL INDUSTRY SOURCES INFORM US THAT B-P'S PRIMARY REASON FOR CALLING ON THEM WAS PREDICTABLY TO SEEK ASSURANCES OF THEIR CONTINUED LARGE-SCALE PURCHASES OF COKING COAL. HE ALSO MENTIONED JAPANESE IMMIGRATION TO BOTH THE STEEL AND TRADING FIRMS AND BRIEFLY BROUGHT UP OTHER SUBJECTS OF INTEREST INCLUDING SUGAR AND CITRUS FRUITS. AGAIN, WE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT B-P'S CALLS WERE PRIMARILY SOCIAL.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH ABE, JAPAN AND QUEENSLAND AGREED TO PROMOTE FURTHER PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES TO IMPROVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. MANSFIELD

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